

# Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

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## The Conservation Pledge

*I pledge to protect and preserve the natural resources of the planet Earth, and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, land, forest, and wildlife.*

## Survival of the Gunniest

People were outraged when the *Black Panthers* brought loaded guns into the *General Assembly* in CALIFORNIA during a session discussing gun display. Contrast that to the open display of loaded guns within *Council Chambers* in Ashland, OREGON.

What happens when you realize that on June 17, 2014, the *Police Sergeant of Arms* stood idly by in Ashland, OREGON, while a man in the audience was armed with two openly displayed loaded gun barrels keeping tabs of the *Council Chambers* procedures. A gun swayed from the leather strap around the “Nice” man’s neck and his pistol was in full view of each *Council Member*. As the Council Meeting commenced, *Mayor Stromberg* commented under-his-breath to the Council that, “*What the Council doesn’t know is that the Gun Club has threatened to disrupt the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.*”

Hello. OREGON state law does not exempt Gun Clubs from liability for making a *Domestic Terrorism* threat to disrupt the **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**, and *Mayor John Stromberg* has some soul-searching to do because he wimped out by proceeding with the *Council Meeting* under loaded gun barrel intimidation tactics by the armed man allowed within the *Council Chambers*.

The *Gun Club*’s armed bully kept a gunned sentinel over the city’s passage of lenient new zoning to allow medical marijuana dispensaries, and *Council Members* alleged that recreational marijuana would soon be legalized, and it was asserted that residents were *secondary* considerations.

Ashlanders may well wonder if the *Mayor, Councilors, Staff, or Police Sergeant of Arms* ever insisted on a *Domestic Terrorism* report being filed with the *Chief of Police* and *Homeland Security*. Probably not, because the next day the local newspapers had conservatively soft-pedaled the situation to merely read that pro-gun rights advocates had stated they would openly carry their loaded guns in Ashland in protest during the **4<sup>th</sup> of July** festivities that attract thousands of residents and tourists. *The sham of it.*

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Schoolchildren are routinely massacred in the *United States of America* (USA). In CONNECTICUT 20-children were gunned down just 18-months ago, and since then, another 74 more shootings happened at SCHOOLS. Two more kids were shot dead last week in school at Troutdale, OREGON. *Awaken! Do the right thing.*

Read the “*Arrests*” column in the local paper and you will see that *Ashland* has its share of *Cocaine*, *Heroin*, and *Meth* users as well as a lot of rapists in town. Did anyone ever wonder if some of *Ashland*’s high percentage of rapes is correlated with its bullies who use open display of weaponry. With open display of loaded guns on the *Plaza*, on hiking trails in *Lithia Park*, and within city limits, maybe *Ashlanders* should remind their weak leaders of the fact that over 30,000 are killed by gun violence every year.

It’s not just Speed that should be *limited* within city *limits*, is it. With as many alcoholic bars in town as *Ashland* has, all it takes is one drunken crackpot to enter a CAMPUS, CHURCH, TEMPLE, or THEATER with an openly displayed loaded gun being carried and go, “*Bang, bang you’re dead*”.

But apparently there’s leadership lethargy because the *Mayor* and *Council* are afraid to do as *Dodge City* did in 1870, and post a “*NO Firearms*” sign as one enters the city limits. The city of Dodge decreed to gunslingers, “*Get out of Dodge*”. Some things actually are unacceptable for public safety, schoolchildren, and tourism. The eyes of the world are on gun control.

It’s interesting to note that the *Jacksonville*, OREGON’s *Britt 2014* brochure says, “*PROHIBITED ITEMS. No hard alcohol, portable stoves, weapons, camping or pets allowed*” Complete **policies** and information are available at [www.brittfest.org](http://www.brittfest.org). Britt is supported in part by an award from the *Oregon Arts Commission*. It might behoove *Ashland*’s *Mayor* and *Council* to adopt the same policy prohibiting weapons within the *City’s Council Chambers* rather than encouraging the art of war in our town.

Those who live by the sword shall perish by the sword according to the *Galilean*’s admonishment when *Peter* used the blade deterrent. *Thou shalt love thy neighbor rather than make bully threats in town.*

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the pistol-packing Mamas and Papas would stop smoking pot and go plant hemp for fabric and paper in the countryside, instead of freaking out business owners, residents, and tourists in the city.

(Sources: June 17, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, “*President Obama is right: We should be ashamed of gun violence*” from the June 13, 2014, MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL; June 18, 2014, June 18, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, “*Ashland decides against open carry ban,*” by Vickie Aldous; June 19, 2014, DAILY TIDINGS, “*Ashland council nixes ban on open carrying of guns, Gun-rights advocates had threatened protests*” by Vickie Aldous; June 20, 2014 DAILY TIDINGS, Letter to the Editor, “*Intimidation and fear at the City Council*” by Bill Harris, Ashland; the HOLY BIBLE; Jacksonville, Oregon, BRITT 2014; [www.brittfest.org](http://www.brittfest.org))

### From Rogue to Righteous

The *Gulf Coast* used to have a natural forest near *Houston*, TEXAS. But now DOW's largest NORTH AMERICAN chemical factory, located near *Houston*, and *Houston's* suburbs.

An ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EPA) notation that reforestation could improve air quality. What a novel idea. The idea got the attention of the U.S. FOREST SERVICE, and DOW CHEMICAL. Imagine planting 1,000 acres of *native* forest trees to help mitigate the problematic emissions of *Nitrogen Oxide*, a combustion pollution byproduct that contributes to ground-level *Ozone*, and is a lung irritant in *Freeport*, TEXAS.

Native tree reforestation near *Freeport* might potentially capture most of DOW's pollutants. That is why *The Nature Conservancy* and DOW are considering growing thick groves, combined with traditional infrastructure, to meet regulations to capture industrial pollutants. *We'll see* whether a quick tree canopy proposal is just another *Genetically Modified Organism* plot since GMO trees are fast growing.

(Source: June 10, MAIL TRIBUNE, "*Dow Chemical venture looks to forests for pollution control*", by Ramit Plushnick-Masti, The Associated Press)

### AG Tech

This month the *Silicon Valley Ag Tech* inaugural conference was held in *Palo Alto*, CALIFORNIA. Big Ag attended with plenty of venture capital. It's the "*you've got technology*" and "*we've got the Agrochemical Monopoly*" cartel. The chemical giants are revving up with high tech and coining Big Ag's *Biotechnology Industry* lobby as "AG TECH". It's the same old *Big Bad Wolf* dressing up in sheep clothing with a fancier word wardrobe so you won't recognize the toxins lurking in bed to gobble up *Great Mother Earth*.

AG TECH wants to commercialize and capitalize upon micro-farming, since organic permaculture gardening has become wildly trendy with chic urban families using social media sites to network among one another all across AMERICA. The American people are getting into home-grown mixed salad greens such as basil, kale, lettuces, and heirloom tomatoes.

Big Ag wants to categorize *Family Farming* as mere "*Hobby*" by labeling it "*Social Gardening*" and to "*help*", there is now the FREE **Apple iOS Organic Gardening Planting Planner** and the FREE **ANDROID OG Planting Planner**.

The question remains whether AG TECH will promote their "*Resistant seeds*" to be grown organically. Then organically grown won't mean anything anymore, because every cell of the plants will still be GMO that can't be washed off, no matter how "*Organically grown*".

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If you don't want AG TECH keeping track of your seed saving, be cautious of the **EARTHWIRE** Social Gardening app that wants you to disclose *what* food you are growing.

You might prefer to network with organic seed savers at [www.pathtofreedom.com](http://www.pathtofreedom.com). The *Dervaes Family*, with a million-strong *Freedom Farmers*, started the *Homegrown Revolution* in AMERICA, long before AG TECH decided it was trending enough to exploit. You could host a venue to show the *Dervaes'* documentary films, "*Homegrown Revolution*", and "*The Path to Sustainable Living in the City*". For more information, contact [Jules@PathtoFreedom.com](mailto:Jules@PathtoFreedom.com).

Above all, save your pennies to attend the "2014 Justice Begins with Seeds" NON-GMO CAMPAIGN conference in *Portland, OREGON*, September 12-13th. For more information see <http://biosafetyalliance.org/MiquelRobles> or call the *Biosafety Alliance* at 415.368.1891.

(Sources: June 2, 2014, DAILY TIDINGS, "*Apps for agriculture*" by Pete Carey, SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS; <http://biosafetyalliance.org/MiquelRobles>, 415.368.1891; [www.PathtoFreedom.com](http://www.PathtoFreedom.com))

#### Filmfests

Just suppose you hosted LABEL GMOs *Filmfests* between now and the elections in November. One can let the movies explain why GMO seeds prepared by *Gene Engineering* are a safety issue of global prime concern. Wouldn't it be great to gift these **foodie films** to your *Senators* and *Representatives* because regardless of who funds political campaigns, it is constituents who *vote*.

1. Symphony of the Soil
2. Seeds of Death
3. The GMO Film
4. GMO:OMG
5. Genetic Roulette
6. Bitter Seeds,
7. Genetically Modified Food
8. Bad Seed The Truth About Our Food
9. Future of Food
10. Dirt! The Movie.

You might also want to see the entertaining feature Film, *Chef*, as well as *Forks Over Knives*, and *Food Inc.* There is a new documentary, *All Fed Up*, coming soon. Watch for its release.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if *Neighborhood Associations* picked up on the idea and bridged the gap between elected officials and the residential communities they are supposed to serve. But even if you don't have a Neighborhood Association yet, maybe you'll invite people over to your home and start hosting **foodie film circles** in your community.

### Organically Grown Supply and Demand

*“If we all did the things we are capable of doing we would literally astound ourselves”*

--Thomas Edison

According to the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) The consumer demand for the *USDA Certified Organic* food has attracted a new generation of young farmers to agriculture and they want to learn permaculture and grow food organically. The organic sales have risen by 84% between 2007 to 2012. Here is the list of counties in the *United States of America* (USA) that are GMO-free growing regions, helping to preserve the integrity of food and the freedom to grow it:

1. Marin, CA
2. Mendicino, CA
3. Santa Cruz, CA
4. Trinity, CA
5. Jackson, OR
6. Josephine, OR
7. San Juans, WA.

The Ancient Kahuna island of *Molokai* has renounced GMOs, and both the Big Island and the Garden Isle of HAWAII have passed legal ordinances to put a moratorium on any further planting of GMO seed plants in their counties.

The reason why AMERICA needs more, not less, GMO-free zones for our domestic *USDA Organically Grown* market is that few things pose as great a threat to the future of organic produce as GMO seed crops. When GMO pollen contaminates an organic farm, the harvest becomes unsellable as “*USDA Certified Organic*” to domestic and global consumers. The giant chemical seed companies sue the victim for patent infringement due to federal patent laws. The infringed upon organic farmers are ruined by AG TECH’s GMO pollen trespass, and sued! That’s how BAD it is. The *Big Bad Bullies* win in court.

(Sources: June 16, 2014, DAILY TIDINGS, “*Organic Farming Attracts A New Generation to Agriculture*” by Ricardo Lopez, from the LOS ANGELES TIMES; May 2014, OREGON STATE GRANCE, “*Measure 15-119 is Our Chance to Protect Jackson County Farmers From Genetically Engineered Crops*” by Elise Higley; [www.ourfamilyfarmscoalition.org](http://www.ourfamilyfarmscoalition.org))

### Children and Families

You might notice six-year old *Tommy Tighe* had a dream ever since he was four. *Tommy* had a vision that he could change the world. All it took was a \$454 loan, a couple of years for his bumper stickers to be mailed to world leaders, and before you knew it the BERLIN WALL fell. *Tommy*’s story appeared in *Chicken Soup for the Soul* and he was invited to appear on TV.

“PEACE, Please do it for the kids--Signed *Tommy* “

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Someone once said that the key to effective parenting is to focus on the positive. What if you helped your kids start a bumper sticker movement:

“LABEL GMOs, Please do it for the kids”

(Sources: June/July 2014, SOUTHERN OREGON FAMILY, “*Planning, Deciding and Acting, Commission for Children and Families*”, 541.474.5234 in Grants Pass; [www.OregonRighttoKnow.com](http://www.OregonRighttoKnow.com); [www.familiesforfoodfreedom.com](http://www.familiesforfoodfreedom.com); [www.Moms4Pop.com](http://www.Moms4Pop.com); [www.ThePOPcampaign.com](http://www.ThePOPcampaign.com); [www.momsacrossamerica.com](http://www.momsacrossamerica.com); [www.southernoregonfamily.com](http://www.southernoregonfamily.com))

### Grandmothers and Others

Grandmothers and others, your book discussion group could read and discuss, *Wellness Uprising: The Book big Pharma Doesn't Want You to Read*, by author Rob Pell.

### Seize the Day

Seize the day by calling KSKQ 895 between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. to make your public comments heard in *Ashland, Jacksonville, Medford, Phoenix, Rogue River, and Talent, OREGON*.

### Flash Drive Forward

This weekly *Eco-Community Dialogues* newsletter is available as a FREE community service, by request, at the *A Street Print & Copy* shop across from ACE hardware, in *Ashland, OREGON*. The print shop only charges for paper and ink, or will download the entire PDF file of current and back issues onto people's flash drives to read off their computers and save paper and ink. You have to provide your own flash drive.

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